

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSM-03
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6073
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PEPR PBOR EG IS XF
SUBJECT: SETTLEMENTS ISSUE IN EGYPT

REF: CAIRO 06303
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SUMMARY. IN REMARKS TO PRESS FEBRUARY 27, FONMIN KAMEL
SAID ISRAELI SETTLEMENT POLICY PROVES ISRAEL IS NOT
RESPONDING TO SADAT INITIATIVE AND CASTS DOUBT ON
ISRAELI SINCERITY. EGYPT'S FIRM STAND IS "NO PEACE
WITH EXPANSION". KAMEL SAID THAT EGYPT WILL COOPERATE
WITH ATHERTON MISSION "TO THE END". TREATMENT OF

SETTLEMENT ISSUE HAS SHARPENED AND EGYPTIAN PUBLIC
LOOKING FOR SOMETHING IT CAN INTERPRET AS SIGN OF GOOD
FAITH. END SUMMARY.

1. FONMIN KAMEL HAS STERNLY CRITICIZED ISRAELI CABINET
POSITION ON SETTLEMENT POLICY. IN REMARKS TO
REPORTERS FEBRUARY 27, KAMEL CALLED IT "NEW PROOF
THAT ISRAELI GOVERNMENT IS NOT RESPONDING TO NEW SPIRIT
CREATED BY PRESIDENT SADAT'S INITIATIVE." ACCORDING
KAMEL, DECISION "SHOWS THAT ISRAELI GOVERNMENT DETERMINED
TO CONTINUE VIOLATING ALL PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL
LAW, UNITED NATIONAL RESOLUTIONS, WORLD OPINION AND
STAND OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT." ADDING TO GRAVITY, KAMEL
SAID, IS TIMING OF DECISION IN MIDST OF ATHERTON'S
"INTENSIFIED EFFORTS" TO PAVE WAY TO JUST PEACE. THIS
TIMING "CASTS HEAVY SHADOWS OF DOUBT ON ISRAELI INTEN-
TIONS AND POINTS OUT THAT ISRAEL IS NEITHER WILLING NOR
FAITHFUL IN RESPONDING TO EFFORTS FOR PEACE ON BASIS
OF SADAT'S INITIATIVE." KAMEL ADDED THAT EGYPTIAN
GOVERNMENT "IS REASSERTING FIRM STAND THAT THERE CAN
BE NO PEACE WITH EXPANSION AND TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL
IS A MAIN CONDITION FOR PEACE."

2. IN REPLY TO QUESTION, KAMEL TOLD PRESS THAT EGYPT
"WILL CONTINUE COOPERATING TO THE END WITH ATHERTON.
THIS PROCESS REQUIRES LENGTHY TALKS IN A QUIET ATMOS-
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PHERE."

3. EDITORIALS AND ARTICLES CRITICAL OF ISRAEL FOLLOWED
SUIT AND SOMEWHAT SHARPENED TONE OF PUBLIC TREATMENT.
ANIS MANSOUR (WRITER OF DEMONSTRATED TALENT FOR VITUPERA-
TION) WRITES THAT ISRAEL'S POLICY "HAS DEEP ROOTS IN
JEWISH CHARACTER". ISRAELIS KEEP SETTLEMENTS ISSUE
ARTIFICIALLY SMOLDERING, FROM DESIRE TO HOLD ON TO LAND,
FROM NEED TO CREATE REASONS FOR FEAR AND BECAUSE THEY
"ACCUSTOMED TO LIVE IN HELL FIRE. IF THEY CREATED
PARADISE FOR THEMSELVES, THEY WOULD HANG PICTURES OF
HELL OR OF GAS CHAMBER ON THE WALLS. THIS IS SICK-
NESS . . . IT IS NATIONAL MANIA."

4. COMMENT. EGYPTIANS DEEPLY FRUSTRATED THAT ISRAELIS
SEEM TO BE "GETTING AWAY" WITH "CHARADE" OF INTERNAL
DISPUTES OVER SETTLEMENTS THAT ENDS UP CONFIRMING
EXISTING POLICY. EGYPTIAN CONVICTION THAT ISRAELIS
ARE INSINCERE IS NO SHAM, BUT GOE CAUGHT IN DILEMMA
THAT PUBLIC ARTICULATION OF THIS BELIEF LIKELY FURTHER
UNDERMINE PUBLIC FAITH THAT NEGOTIATIONS CAN EVENTUALLY
SUCCEED. PERCEIVING ISRAELI POLICY AS DESIGNED TO
COUNTER RATHER THAN RESPOND TO PEACE INITIATIVE,

EGYPTIAN PUBLIC LOOKING FOR SOMETHING IT CAN INTERPRET
AS SIGN OF ISRAELI GOOD FAITH. EILTS

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